



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Boise District Office

3948 Development Avenue

Boise, Idaho 83705

<http://www.id.blm.gov/offices/lsrcd>



In Reply Refer To:
4100 (ID120)

May 27, 2008

Owyhee County
P.O. Box 128
Murphy, Idaho 83650

Dear Commissioners:

Enclosed you will find a CD containing the East Castle Creek Evaluation and Determination. This document describes the status of resource conditions and management actions in relation to the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management. The Evaluation and Determination discusses resources conditions and trends and evaluates management actions to determine causal factors – specifically whether or not current livestock grazing management is a significant factor.

The Evaluation and Determination describes that Standards are not being met within some of the pastures in this allotment, significant progress is not being made towards meeting those Standards and livestock grazing is a significant factor. Current policy (1995 Grazing Regulations) directs that “The authorized officer shall take appropriate action...as soon as practicable but not later than the start of the next grazing year upon determining that existing grazing management needs to be modified to ensure that...” Standards for rangeland health are being met or are making significant progress towards meeting. To this end the Bruneau Field Office will be considering management alternatives and monitoring strategies appropriate to those alternatives. An environmental assessment is then prepared to analyze the alternative management actions. At its culmination, this process will adopt management and monitoring to address specific concerns on the allotment that will make progress toward meeting the Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health.

You now have the opportunity to participate in the development of the management alternatives. The BLM is seeking input and suggestions for management alternatives to respond to resource conditions or concerns. Management proposed for consideration should address how it will make progress toward meeting Standards. You may refer to the Evaluation and Determination p. 58 for a list of specific concerns to be addressed. Proposals must result in progress toward meeting the Standards. Proposals or parts of proposals that result in progress will be included as an alternative or in combination with another alternative and analyzed in the environmental assessment.

The document is an Adobe Acrobat PDF file, which can be opened with Adobe Acrobat. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat, it can be downloaded, free of charge, from the World Wide Web. You can view the document on the BLM’s web site at <http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/info/nepa.2.html>.

If you would like a paper copy of the document, or have questions, please contact Pam Druliner at 208-384-3212 or Mike Boltz at 208-384-3346.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you during this process. Please have any proposals, or be prepared to discuss your proposals, to the BLM by June 20, 2008.

Sincerely,

Arnold Pike
Acting Field Manager

Enclosure: CD of the East Castle Creek Draft Rangeland Health Assessment